



State of California
Respiratory Care Board

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Inquiry: Can a Respiratory Care Practitioner administer intravenous medications (i.e. Versed) and monitor for drug reaction?

Response: It is our assessment that the function you inquired about would be classified as follows:

Administration of Intravenous Medication (i.e. Versed) and monitoring for drug reaction - **1B** (*Not verbatim from the Respiratory Care Practice Act but, in the Respiratory Care Board's judgment, highly inferred and allowed*)

In addition to the classification listed above the intent of the Respiratory Care Practice Act recognizes the existence of overlapping functions between physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, physical therapists, respiratory care practitioners, and other licensed health care personnel (§ 3701, Legislative Findings - Intent). As such, the onus is on the licensed health facility to develop appropriate training and competencies that would provide this function in a manner that would be safe when administered to the public.

It is also the intent of the Respiratory Care Practice Act to encourage the development of these functions into a protocol (§ 3702. Respiratory Care Described - "Protocols") that would appropriately outline the comprehensive guidelines for administering intravenous medications.

Reference # 2002-C-02